

Amendments to the claims:

Please replace all prior versions and listings of the claims with the following amended claims:

5     Listing of Claims:

1.     (Original) A hair styling system for parting hair according to a predetermined pattern, the hair styling system comprising:
  - 10     a.     a parting device with a tip portion for tracing through the hair; and
  - b.     a stencil with a styling edge that is contoured with the predetermined pattern, wherein placing the stencil on an area of the hair, tracing the tip portion of the parting device along the styling edge of the stencil and separating the hair along the trace, parts the hair according to the predetermined pattern.
- 15     2.     (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the styling edge of the stencil is contoured with a plurality of geometric protrusions.
- 20     3.     (Currently Amended) The system of claim 2, wherein the predetermined pattern comprises a plurality of geometric protrusions that are selected from a group consisting of rounded scallops, squared teeth and pointed teeth.
- 25     4.     (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the stencil is a flattened elongated stencil formed from a resilient material selected from the group consisting of plastic, polyurethane and rubber.
- 30     5.     (Original) The system of claim 4, wherein the flattened elongated stencil has an average length between 5 and 30 cm, an average width between of 2 to 10 cm and an average thickness between 0.1 and 1 cm.
6.     (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the parting device comprises two handles that are attached by one end of each handle to the tip portion.
7.     (Original) The system of claim 6, wherein two unattached ends of the handles are capable

of being aligned in a closed position and separated in an open position.

5 8. (Original) The system of claim 7, wherein at least one of the two handles is attached to the tip portion through a hinge structure comprising a hinge element selected from the group consisting of a pin, a screw and a leaf spring.

9. (Original) The system of claim 6, wherein the two handles and the tip portion are monolithic and formed from a resilient material.

10 10. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 9, wherein the resilient material is selected from the group ~~consists~~ consisting of plastic, polyurethane and rubber.

11. (Canceled).

15 12. (Original) The system of claim 7, wherein the handles are flared at the unattached ends for grasping and positioning the handles in the open and the closed positions.

13. (Original) The system of claim 6, wherein unattached ends of the handles are reticulated.

20 14. (Currently Amended) A system for parting hair comprising:  
a) a tracing and separating means for tracing a predetermined pattern through the hair and parting the hair according to the predetermined pattern; and  
b) a stencil with a styling edge that outlines the predetermined pattern[[used]] and is configured to guide the tracing and separating means through the hair and part the hair  
25 according to the predetermined pattern.

15. (Original) The system of claim 14, wherein the styling edge of the stencil is an outer styling edge of the stencil.

16. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 15, wherein the stencil is a [[fattened]] flattened elongated stencil is formed from a resilient material that is capable of conforming to the curvature of a human head.

17. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 14, wherein the styling edge [comprised]

comprises a plurality of repeating geometric protrusions.

18. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 17, wherein the plurality repeating geometric protrusions is selected from [[a]] the group consisting of round scallops, squared teeth and pointed teeth.
19. (Original) The system of the claim 14, wherein the tracing and parting mean comprises two handles that are hingably attached to a tip section.
20. (Original) The system of claim 19, wherein grasping ends of each of the handles are flared and reticulated.
21. (Currently Amended) A method [[for]] of styling [an area of] hair [comprising the step of]:
  - a. providing a stencil with a predetermined pattern;
  - b. placing the stencil over ~~area~~ the an area of the hair;
  - c. tracing the predetermined pattern from the stencil and through the hair with a parting device while holding the stencil in place over the area of the hair; and
  - d. separating the hair along the trace.
22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21, wherein the predetermined pattern is provided with an outer edge of the stencil.
23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21, wherein the parting device comprises two hingably attached handles that are capable of opening and closing in a jaw-like fashion to facilitate the step of separating [[of]] the hair.
24. (New) The system of claim 14, wherein the tracing and separating means comprises a first handle and a second handle, the first handle being attached to a pointed tip section through a first hinge element and the second handle being attached to the pointed tip section through a second hinge element, wherein unattached ends of the handles are capable of being aligned in a closed position and separated in an open position in a jaw like fashion about the pointed tip section through the first hinge element and the second

hinge element.

25. (New) A stencil for parting hair according to a predetermined pattern, the stencil comprising a flattened elongated body with a continuous styling edge, the continuous styling edge comprising a plurality of geometric protrusions, wherein the stencil is configured to be held stationary against the hair while tracing a portion of the continuous styling edge with a parting device through the hair to form a part in the hair with a shape that is substantially similar to the portion of the continuous styling edge.
26. (New) A hair styling system for parting hair comprising:
- a. an extended tip section comprising a pointed end;
  - b. a first handle section with a proximal and distal end;
  - c. a second handle section with a proximal and distal end;
  - d. a first hinge for adjoining the first handle near its distal end to the extended tip section;
  - e. a second hinge for adjoining the second handle near its distal end to the extended tip section wherein first and second handle are capable of being place in a closed position by aligned the proximal ends and placed in an open position by separating the proximal ends; and
  - f. a stencil with a contoured styling edge,
- wherein hair is parted by holding the stencil against a user's head, guiding the pointed end of the extended tip section through a section of hair along the contoured styling edge of the stencil with the first and the second handle in the closed position and placing the first and second handle in the open position.
27. (New) A method of parting hair in a preferred configuration comprising:
- a. placing a template with a patterned edge on a section of hair;
  - b. placing a pointed tip portion of a styling device near the patterned edge of the template, the styling device comprising a first and a second handle coupled by one end of each of the first and a second handles to the pointed tip portion through a first and a second hinge element;
  - c. tracing along the a pattered edge of the template with the handles aligned in a closed position and the pointed tip portion pointing in a forward tracing direction;

and

- d. separating the handles to an open position about the pointed tip portion, thereby parting the hair in the preferred pattern.

28. (New) A device for parting hair comprising:

- a. means for tracing, for tracing a part through a section of hair, the means for tracing comprising a pointed tip and a template with a pattern for guiding the pointed tip along a user's scalp; and
- b. means for separating the hair along the part, the means for separating the hair along the part comprising a first and a second handle each coupled to the means to trace through a first and a second hinge element such that the hair is capable of being separated without removing the means to trace from the section of hair.

29. (New) A method of making a hair parting system comprising;

- a. forming a flexible elongated stencil with a plurality of geometric protrusions along a styling edge; and
- b. forming a separate parting device comprising an extended tip section with a pointed end,

wherein the parting device is configured to trace a pattern through hair and along the styling edge of the stencil, while the styling stencil is held against the hair.

30. (New) The of method claim 29, further comprising:

- a. forming a first elongated handle;
- b. forming a second elongated handle; and
- c. attaching the first and the second elongated handles opposite the pointed end of the extended tip section through hinge elements, such that unattached ends of the handles are capable of being aligned in a closed position and separated in an open position in a jaw-like fashion through the hinge elements.